

U.S. Application No. 09/923,320 Examiner NGUYEN Art Unit 2154
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Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for notifying an offline user, the method comprising:

monitoring a total number of users who log in to a website;
comparing the total number of users to notification criteria of the offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website; and
when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then sending a notification to the offline user,

wherein the notification informs the offline user of an amount of activity in the website.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the website is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise a topic of discussion.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the website is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise when a high score has been exceeded.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise a number of bids submitted within a certain duration.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising reporting the indication to another offline user.

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8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending an offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the offline user's contact information.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein ~~the step of~~ sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving an indication from the offline user as to whether the offline user will log in to the website; and
 - reporting the indication to the online user.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone,
 - wherein the step of receiving the indication comprises receiving input of the offline user through an interactive voice response unit, and

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wherein the step of reporting the indication comprises transmitting the indication to the online user through a global computer network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein receiving the indication comprises receiving audio input of the offline user and converting the audio input to text for transmission through the global computer network to the online user.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein receiving the indication comprises receiving audio input of the offline user, recording the audio input as a digital audio file, and transmitting the digital audio file through the global computer network to the online user.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of an interactive pager and a wireless access protocol device,
wherein receiving the indication comprises receiving input of the offline user from the interactive pager or the wireless access protocol device, and
wherein reporting the indication comprises transmitting the indication to the online user through the global computer network.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the input comprises one of a standard message and a customized message.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the notification comprises the notification criteria and a time and a date that the notification criteria was satisfied.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising requiring the offline user to provide a passcode before forwarding the offline communication.

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20. (Previously Presented) A computer providing notification of an online interaction occurring on a global computer network, the computer performing:
- monitoring a total number of users who log in to a website;
 - when a user logs in, comparing the total number of users to notification criteria of an offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website; and
 - when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then sending a notification to the offline user,
- wherein the notification informs the offline user of an amount of activity in the website.
21. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the website is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise a topic of discussion.
22. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the website is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise when a high score has been exceeded.
23. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user.
24. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the computer further performs sending an offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the offline user's contact information.
25. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 24, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device.

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26. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 24, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types.
27. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 24, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.
28. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 20, wherein the computer further performs:
- receiving an indication as to whether the offline user will log in to the website;
and
reporting the indication to the online user.
29. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 24, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone,
- wherein receiving the indication comprises receiving input of the offline user through an interactive voice response unit, and
- wherein reporting the indication comprises transmitting the indication to the online user through a global computer network.
30. (Previously Presented) A system providing notification of an online interaction occurring on a global computer network, the system performing:

monitoring a total number of users who log in to a website;

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comparing the total number of users to notification criteria of an offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website; and
when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then sending an offline communication to the offline user,

wherein the offline communication notifies the offline user of an amount of activity in the website.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the website is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise a topic of discussion.
32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the website is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise when a high score has been exceeded.
33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user.
34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the system further performs sending an offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the offline user's contact information.
35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device.
36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types.

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37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.
38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the system further performs:
- receiving an indication from the offline user as to whether the offline user will log in to the website; and
- reporting the indication to an online user.
39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone,
- wherein receiving the indication comprises receiving input of the offline user through an interactive voice response unit, and
- wherein reporting the indication comprises transmitting the indication to the online user through a global computer network.
40. (Previously Presented) A system for notifying an offline user of an online interaction, the system comprising:
- (a) a means for retrieving notification criteria of the offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to a website;
 - (b) a means for monitoring a total number of users who log in to the website;
 - (c) a means for comparing the total number of logged in users to the notification criteria; and
 - (d) a means for sending a notification that the total number of users logged in to the website exceeds the preset amount, the notification initiating an offline

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communication to the offline user and informing the offline user of an amount of activity in the website.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the website is one of a chat room, a game site, and an auction.

42. (Previously Presented) A method for notifying an offline user of an interaction in which the offline user could participate, wherein the interaction occurs on a website, the method comprising:

retrieving notification criteria under which to notify the offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website;

monitoring a total number users who log in to the website;

comparing the total number of logged in users to the preset amount; and

when the total number of logged in users exceeds the preset amount, then sending a notification to the offline user informing the offline user of an amount of activity in the website.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the website is one of a chat site, a game site, and an auction site.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising sending an offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the offline user's contact information.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein when the website is a game site, then sending the notification when a high score has been exceeded.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the offline communication is one of a wireline telephone call, a wireless telephone call, a message sent to a caller

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identification device, a message sent to a wireless access protocol device, a message sent to a one-way pager, and a message sent to an interactive pager.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

receiving an indication as to whether the offline user will join the interaction; and
reporting the indication to users logged into the website.

48. (Previously Presented) A method for notifying an offline user of an interaction in which the offline user could participate, wherein the interaction occurs on an instant messaging service, the method comprising:

monitoring a total number of users that log into the instant messaging service;

when the total number of logged in users exceeds a predefined amount, then
sending a notification to the offline user informing the offline user of an amount of
activity in the instant messaging service;

receiving an indication as to whether the offline user will join the instant
messaging service; and

reporting the indication to users logged into the instant messaging service.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) A method for notifying an offline user of activities occurring on an auction website, the method comprising:

retrieving notification criteria under which to notify the offline user, the
notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the auction website;

monitoring a total number of users who log in to the auction website;

comparing the total number of logged in users to the preset amount; and

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when if the activities satisfy the notification criteria, sending a notification to the offline user informing the offline user of a level of activity in the auction website.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the notification criteria are one of:

when a bid is entered that exceeds a high bid of the offline user, and
when the number of bids entered with a duration exceeds a preset amount.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising:

receiving an indication as to whether the offline user will log onto the auction website; and

reporting the indication to a user logged into the auction website.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising reporting a high bid from the offline user to users logged into the auction website.

55. (Cancel)

56. (Cancel)

57. (Cancel)

58. (New) A method for notifying an offline user, the method comprising:

monitoring a total number of users who log in to a website;

comparing the total number of users to notification criteria of the offline user, the notification criteria specifying a preset amount of users that log in to the website; and

when the total number of users exceeds the preset amount, then sending a notification to the offline user;

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sending an offline communication to one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone;

receiving an indication from the offline user as to whether the offline user will log in to the website; and

reporting the indication to the online user,

wherein the notification informs the offline user of an amount of activity in the website.